



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

May 4, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *tn*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – CRITTENTON
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY, BROOKDALE COTTAGE
GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Brookdale Cottage Group Home operated by Crittenton Services for Children and Families. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Brookdale Cottage Group Home is a nine-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 11–17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Brookdale Cottage Group Home was providing services for eight Los Angeles County DCFS children, and one Orange County child.

Brookdale Group Home is located in Orange County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address the following deficient areas:

Brookdale Cottage Group Home needs to complete initial assessments within the first thirty days of placement for all children and provide monthly psychiatric evaluations for children taking psychotropic medication.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdj
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Joyce Capelle, Executive Director, Crittenton Services for Children and Families
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Crittenton Services for Children and Families
Brookdale Cottage Group Home
116 Brookdale Street
Fullerton, California 92832
Telephone: (714) 680-9000
License Number: 300600336
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Brookdale Cottage Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. However, children are not always assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

1. Crittenton Services for Children and Families management assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

One child is attending school, and is progressing satisfactorily in school. Efforts to place the other child in an appropriate educational setting are documented. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. However, children taking psychotropic medications are not seen by the prescribing psychiatrist on a monthly basis.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

- 2. Crittenton Services for Children and Families management provide monthly psychiatric evaluations for all children taking psychotropic medications.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff

supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

PO Box 9
Fullerton, CA
92836-0009
714.680.8200

Los Angeles &
Orange County
Central Office

92831-3839

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ACCREDITED



ATTACHMENT
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CRITTENTON SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

March 14, 2006

Candice Rhue
Department of Auditor Controlle
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 515
Los Angeles Ca.

Dear Ms. Rhue,

This is the revised Corrective Active Plan in response to your recommendations.

1. Crittenton Services For Children and Families assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.

In addition to our Policy and Procedure and the monthly Chart Review the Rehabilitation Specialist Coordinator will do monthly checks to insure that all Needs and Services Plans will be completed within thirty days of intake. The outcomes will be reported at our quarterly Continuous Quality Improvement meeting. All Rehabilitation Specialists responsible for completing the Needs and Services Plan will be trained by March 15th.

2. Crittenton Services For Family and Children provide monthly psychiatric evaluations for all children on psychotropic medication.

Per licensing and COA accreditation clients are seen by the psychiatrist at minimum every sixty days or more frequently as indicated by the psychiatrist. This is in accordance with our contract which states, on page 26. 3.5.3, CONTRACTOR shall arrange for the Placed Child to receive monthly evaluations by the prescribing physician, UNLESS, otherwise documented by the physician.

Please notify me if there is any further information you require.

Sincerely,

Lynda Scarlino
Program Director